BBC tape - The Day the President Died

Pierce Allman, a Dallas television executive (WFAA?) "strolled over to the curb on Elm Street which is just at the intersection of Elm and Houston, right across from the Texas School Book Depository."

On tape at 250': Pierce Allman, who was standing outside the Texas School Book Depository ... recalls a few hours later those few dramatic seconds.

"Then came this big, shiny Lincoln car with the President and Mrs. Kennedy and I remarked again how different I thought she looked than the photographs which I had seen of her - I had never seen her in person. She was wearing a lovely pink suit. Well, she was on the left hand side of the car, the President was on the right. He was having trouble keeping his hair out of his eyes because of the breeze, travelling slowly, I'd say about 12 to 15 miles an hour (this is difficult to judge), and they turned the corner and as they came by me I broke into applause.

"And just after they went by me there was a big loud BOOM. It was a reverberating explosion. It was not a sharp, flat crack that one normally associates with a rifle and this is why it didn't even enter my mind at the time that it could be a shot. It was just a BOOM, a big, dull sounding explosion, rather like a shotgun fired in a concrete chamber that reverberates. No one sprang into action, there were mixed reactions, everyone was sort of looking around like I was, and then another very deliberate BOOM! And I looked and the President had slumped - I thought at the time he was ducking - but now I know of course that he was slumping. He had slumped forward, his left arm was thrown up. Mrs. Kennedy's left hand was on his left arm. The Governor and Mrs. Connally were in the jump seats, the little seats behind the front seat, and the Governor was half-turned and it was the second shot that got him. The President - then there was another dull, one of these booms. These were deliberately spaced things, there was no haste, no panic, no automatic rapidity to them at all, just a Boom, Boom - BOOM! A very dramatic thing, I can't forget it at all, I keep hearing the shots. And on the third one the President then - instead of slumping forward it looked like he was, he - he jerked back or was thrown back a little bit. And Mrs. Kennedy then was halfway out of the seat and a Secret Service man - I presume he was - a Secret Service man was then over Mrs. Kennedy. And the car had stopped only momentarily and then immediately sped away at top speed.

"And there was a couple on the other side of the street who were on the ground, and immediately after this happened a policeman came towards me, drawing his gun. It was after the third shot that everything erupted, and guns appeared from all directions but they were afraid to fire, naturally, because of the crowd and they didn't know where to fire, quite frankly. And a policeman threw me to the ground, said, 'Hit the dirt', and I got up, immediately, ran across the street because I thought this young couple had been hit, and I said, 'Are you all right?' And he was beating the ground with his fist, saying, 'My God, they shot him! They shot him!'"

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Aubrey Rike, ambulance driver, having just brought in a patient, was standing by the admission desk, Parkland Hospital.

On tape at 336': "We was waiting at the admitting desk for our patient to be registered in to the hospital when two men, well dressed in suits, one carrying a briefcase, the other carrying a large rifle - it appeared to me to be a machine gun - come rushing into the hospital. First thing that appeared to me, that it was some "lunace" person. The man with the briefcase immediately started hollering for someone to bring some stretchers. The man with the rifle hollered for everyone to clear out. I was so scared at the time I couldn't move and I guess 15 seconds had elapsed and the Vice-President of the United States, Lyndon Johnson, was being brought into the hospital, two men escorting him, had him underneath the arms. He was very pale-looking, as if he had suffered a heart attack or something. Then immediately following him they brought in our Governor of the state, John Connally, and they rushed him by us. We were standing not more than two feet from him at the time. Immediately behind him, with about a five-second lapse, they brough in this other gentleman who had a coat over his face."

On tape at 463': In a quiet residential street about four miles from the shooting, police officer Tippit, driving a radio prowl car, stopped a fair-haired young man in shirt sleeves who fitted the broadcast description. He was outside the house of Mrs. Ann McCreavy.

"I was standing at the window and I saw a man run by, and then there was a police car coming down the street and the policeman jumped out of the car, and just as he did the man turned around and shot him, and the man fell. He was dead, I guess, and I figured it was the same man that shot the President that shot Mr. Tippit, the policeman that was killed."